

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1902

This meeting was held at the New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 p. m.; Dr. MacDougal in the chair; 15 persons present.

The reading of the minutes was dispensed with on account of the absence of the secretary.

The first paper on the program was by Mrs. N. L. Britton, under the title "Remarks on West Indian Mosses." Comments were made on several questions of synonymy and nomenclature arising from a study of collections recently made in Porto Rico by Mr. A. A. Heller and by Professor Underwood, and in St. Kitts by Dr. Britton. Attention was directed particularly to the genus *Sematophyllum* Mitt. 1864 (= *Raphidostegium* De Not. 1867 = *Rhynchostegium*, section *Raphidostegium* Br. & Sch. 1852). This genus is chiefly tropical or subtropical in its distribution, though eleven species are known to occur in North America north of Mexico.

The second paper was by Dr. P. A. Rydberg, on "Some Genera of the Saxifragaceae." The speaker presented some of the results of studies intended as a contribution to a projected work on the flora of North America. The family name Saxifragaceae was used in a restricted sense, excluding *Ribes*, *Hydrangea*, *Philadelphus*, *Parnassia*, *Itea*, etc. The members of the family in the narrower sense are all herbaceous plants with the exception of a single species of *Heuchera* which has a sort of aërial woody stem. Dr. Rydberg commented especially upon the genera *Bolandra*, *Therofon*, *Telesonix*, *Hemieva*, *Tiarella*, *Heuchera*, *Tellima*, *Lithophragma*, *Mitella*, and *Chrysosplenium*, referring to the geographical distribution and number of species of each. *Heuchera* is the largest of these genera, being represented by 58 species in North America, including Mexico. The paper was discussed by Dr. Britton and others.

Professor F. S. Earle made a brief report on a recent trip to western Texas and eastern New Mexico, stating that 800 numbers of botanical specimens were collected. April and May

seemed too early in the season for finding many herbaceous plants in flower and this was especially the case with the monocotyledons.

Dr. N. L. Britton showed specimens of *Washingtonia longistylis* collected a few days previously near Washington, D. C., differing from Torrey's type of the species in greater hairiness.

Mrs. Britton alluded to the organization of "The Wild Flower Preservation Society of America." Professor Earle remarked upon the region west of the Pecos River, where vegetation has been nearly exterminated by overstocking with cattle, as a proper field for the activities of the Society.

Dr. MacDougal showed a corm of *Amorphophallus*, kept for twenty months in a dark room, where it had flowered. New buds, apparently adventitious, had formed near its base.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,  
*Secretary pro tem.*

## NEWS ITEMS

Dr. W. Seward Webb has contributed \$6,000 toward the fund for the purchase and maintenance of the Pringle herbarium by the University of Vermont.

Hon. Addison Brown, president of the Torrey Botanical Club, received the degree of LL.D. from Harvard University at the last commencement.

Professor F. S. Earle, assistant curator of the New York Botanical Garden, was recently granted the honorary degree of A.M. by the Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

Professor Alexander W. Evans, of Yale University, and Mr. Percy Wilson, of the New York Botanical Garden, are making botanical collections in Porto Rico under the auspices of the latter institution.

Dr. William A. Murrill, of the Boys' High School, New York City, is spending the summer in Europe, where he will devote especial attention to the study of type specimens of fungi, particularly those of Fries in Sweden, and those of Berkeley and Cooke in England.